

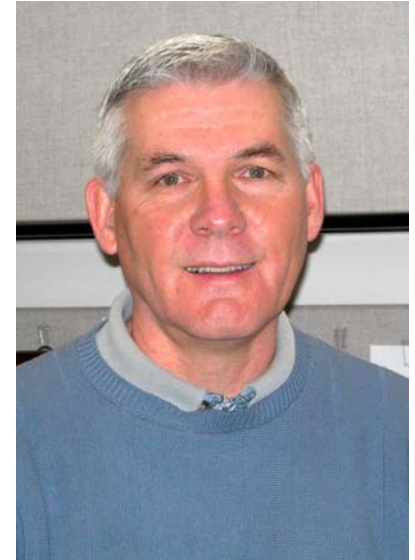
# San Juan Public Lands People



## Employee News Winter 2008



### Johnson and Sieger Retire



**DURANGO** – San Juan Realty Specialist Clyde Johnson retired in January after 33 years with BLM. Clyde started his career in 1974 as a Natural Resource Specialist and Range Conservationist in Montrose. In 1982, he moved to Gunnison working in range, wildlife, firewood sales, and minerals.

Clyde landed on the San Juan in 1988, first as a Natural Resource Specialist, then Rangeland Management Specialist, before taking his current position in 1997.

Born in Corpus Christi, Texas, Clyde was raised in Washington State. He earned his bachelor's degree in Range Management and Biology from Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas.

Clyde's 883-acre ranch in the Red Mesa area southwest of Durango helps support his 60-head cattle operation.

"We specialize in conception to consumption," he says, "marketing our wholesale natural beef, and some chickens, through the Durango Farmers' Market, word of mouth, and mail order."

Clyde's wife, Janice, also just retired after 20 years with La Plata County Social Services. They plan to spend time traveling to visit grandchildren. He'll also be mixing ranching with some preaching at the First Southern Baptist Church in Durango.

Clyde breaks into that special smile of his when he thinks back on his BLM career.

"I've had a diversity of assignments, even though I didn't work in a lot of different places," he says. "I've really enjoyed the BLM/Forest Service family blend we have here."

- Ann Bond

**DURANGO** – Bob Sieger, San Juan NF Engineer and PLC Assistant Center Manager, retired in January after more than 36 years with the USFS. Bob started his career in 1969, working summers as a survey and civil engineering technician on the Black Hills NF. After graduating from South Dakota School of Mines, he landed a permanent position as Civil Engineer on the Black Hills.

After holding engineering positions on the Kootenai and Gifford Pinchot NFs, Bob came to the San Juan in 1989, first as Assistant Forest Engineer, then Forest Engineer. Last year, he was named Rocky Mountain Region Managerial Engineer of the Year.

"I want to thank everyone for their support," Bob says. "I will miss you all, and especially the LT Meetings. Keep the communication going and you will be successful."

Bob and his wife, Mary, who retired this fall from the Mercy Medical Center Employee Child Care Center, look forward to splitting their time between Durango and Gilbert, Arizona, where they recently bought a second home.

"I'm not retiring to golf, but I want to golf more," he says.

They look forward to spending time with their grandchildren. Bob doesn't plan to work anytime soon but may volunteer for his church, Christ the King Lutheran Church.

San Juan Facilities Engineer Laurie Yeager will be detailed into Bob's position for the next 120 days.

"Bob has been very approachable and supportive of his employees," Laurie says. "He's been fiscally responsible, always open to new ideas and a tremendous source of advice and knowledge throughout the years."

- Ann Bond

## PLC NEWS

## Sprentall is Filling in

**DURANGO** - Bob Sprentall, who has served as Douglas District Ranger on the Medicine Bow/Routt NF for the past four years, is filling in as the San Juan's Deputy Forest Supervisor/Associate Center Manager over the winter.

Bob has worked for both the FS and BLM, making him a good fit for the San Juan's Service First approach. He has experience in energy, range, and planning. In his District Ranger role, Bob administers the Thunder Basin National Grassland, home of the Powder River coal fields.

"We have a large coalbed-methane program and also a conventional oil well program," he says.

A graduate of Colorado State University with a degree in Range and Forest Management, Bob has been with the FS for 30 years. He started his career as a seasonal in Oregon, first as a Range Technician on the Fremont NF, then with the BLM in Prineville, working on soil and vegetation surveys.

His first permanent position was as Range Conservationist on the White River NF. He then moved to the Routt NF as Range/Wildlife/Minerals/Special Uses Staff. From there, Bob went to the Nebraska NF/Grasslands, first as the Range/Wildlife/Minerals Staff, later as the Range Program Manager.

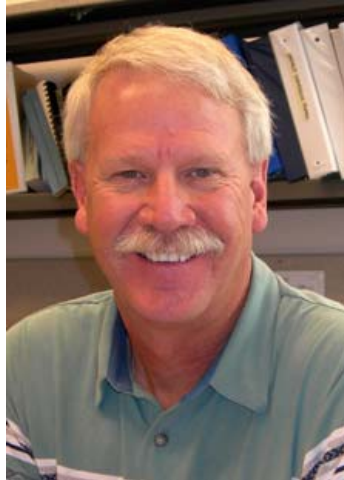
In that position, he served first as Vegetation Specialist, and later, Team Leader, for the Northern Great Plains Grassland Plan Revision. Bob also served as the Planning Director for both the Nebraska and Black Hills NFs.

Bob and his wife, Gail, an accountant, have been married for 31 years. Their recently married daughter, Malinda, is a graduate of Chadron State College with a degree in music and math.

Bob and Gail enjoy downhill and cross-country skiing, mountain biking, and hiking. This summer they spent a week traveling the roads in the Black Hills of South Dakota on their Yamaha 1100 Classic motorcycle.

"I am really excited to come to southwest Colorado, as we have spent a lot of time on the north side of the San Juans in the Ouray and Ridgway areas of Colorado," Bob says.

- Ann Bond



## Murray Retires From Dispatch

**DURANGO** - Linda Murray, BIA dispatcher in the PLC Interagency Fire Dispatch, has retired after 30 years with the federal government.

Linda started her career working in rural development for USDA in Arizona in 1977. Her first FS position was on the Ashley NF in Utah in 1981, first as Receptionist, then as Computer Assistant.

Linda transferred to Ashley, Idaho, as a Computer Assistant on the Idaho Panhandle NFs, then moved to the Mount Hood NF in Oregon as an Engineering Technician.

"In 1991, the FMO there asked if I would be interested in working in dispatch, and I said, 'yes,'" Linda says, and her career in fire began.

Linda arrived on the San Juan in 2002 at the end of the Missionary Ridge Fire. Although she is technically a BIA employee, she reports to Dispatch Manager Chris Buckman as part of the seamless interagency center stationed at the PLC.

"We're all funded by different agencies, but when it comes to fire, we're all the same," Linda says.

Linda looks forward to working on her house and yard in Mancos, spending time with her pets, and pursuing her hobbies of genealogy and reading. She'll also work in dispatch during emergencies.

- Ann Bond



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## PLC NEWS

## Stakeholders Group Honored

**DURANGO** – The Animas River Stakeholders Group received the USFS Rocky Mountain Regional 2007 Partnership of the Year Award in December for its efforts to improve water quality in the Upper Animas River Basin.

The group is made up of 35 parties representing federal, state, and local government agencies; the mining industry; environmental groups; and interested citizens. It was established in 1994, when water quality in the Upper Animas watershed that was so poor that the river was considered one of the most deteriorated rivers in the state.

The problems stemmed from heavy metals draining from hundreds of abandoned mine sites, in addition to naturally occurring metals contamination from geological features.

“The group was formed to explore methods of keeping the watershed off the Superfund list. Not only did it accomplish that goal, but its efforts have ensured that funding is spent on priority projects, regardless of land ownership or other concerns,” said Matt Janowiak, San Juan Associate Center Manager of Physical Resources. “The result is that water quality in the Upper Animas watershed has improved to the point where many stretches support trout and other aquatic life for the first time in decades, and the river can be considered for Wild and Scenic designation.”

The stakeholders group has secured grant money to complete more than 55 cleanup projects, ranging from small excavations to large-scale water treatment, and waste-dump removals and caps. More than \$13 million has been spent since the early 1990s.

“Had the watershed been subject to Superfund, costs would likely have been up to five times this amount, and we would have accomplished much less work,” said Stephanie Odell, Project Manager for the San Juan’s Abandoned Mine Lands Program. *- Ann Bond*



From left to right: The Regional Partnership of the Year Award is accepted by Acting San Juan NF Deputy Supervisor Bob Sprentall, Animas River Stakeholders Group Coordinator Bill Simon, and representatives from the Regional Office.

## San Juan GIS Team Recognized

The San Juan Public Lands GIS Team was awarded the USFS Rocky Mountain Regional Information Technology Award in December. The Team offers spatial data management both locally and regionally.

“The individual performance of each team member is outstanding,” said Thurman Wilson, San Juan Associate Center Manager for Planning. “They face the challenge of dealing with both agencies’ data management systems in providing data, maps, and analysis for resources, while also providing project support for wide-ranging activities.”

Those activities included several large projects in 2007, such as the Northern San Juan Basin Coal Bed Methane project, Draft Resource Management Plan for Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, and the combined revision of the Forest and BLM management plans. In their spare time, team members compiled data and produced materials for other priority NEPA projects, including allotment management, fuels reduction, weed management, and travel management planning. The San Juan’s team also found time to support other National Forests with complex projects, such as lynx habitat calculations and wildlife modeling.

*- Ann Bond*

From left to right: GIS Team Leader Dan Greene, Acting San Juan NF Deputy Supervisor Bob Sprentall, and San Juan NF Supervisor Mark Stiles accept the Regional Forester’s Award for Information Technology.



## COLUMBINE AND PLC NEWS

### Goodell Moving to PLC

**BAYFIELD** - Craig Goodell will be moving to the PLC as the San Juan's new Fire Education and Mitigation Specialist, after recently being named Fire Management Officer for the Columbine Public Lands Office.

"I'm looking forward to a change and the challenges that the position offers," Craig says. "The new job will allow me work more closely with the local communities and home owners."

Craig has spent the last 20 years working in a variety of capacities in Recreation, Timber, Range, Wildlife and Fire for the former Animas and Pine Ranger Districts of the San Juan, and for the current Columbine Ranger District/Field Office. He holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Fort Lewis College and a Master's degree in Forestry with an emphasis in Fire Ecology from Colorado State University.

-Stanley Sparks



**Kay Zillich and her son, Will, on a boat ride to Coco Plum Caye, Belize, December 2007.**

### Zillich Moving to Columbine

**DURANGO** – Kay Zillich, San Juan Abandoned Mine Land Program Hydrologist, is the new District/Field Office Hydrologist for the Columbine Office. She'll be offering hydrology support on watershed-improvement projects, including ongoing fen restoration projects, and assistance with oil and gas surface compliance.

"I also plan to keep watch over the mine-safety closure projects for Columbine and Dolores, and will probably continue to help with the Wild and Scenic River portion of the Plan," she says.

For now, Kay will stay in her current office space in the PLC, "but when Columbine gets under one roof, I'll be wherever that is."

Kay worked in Dolores on the IRI program establishing the water layers for GIS, on the former Mancos RD working in Recreation, Special Uses and Minerals. Before coming to the San Juan, she was Forest Hydrologist on the Rio Grande NF.

Kay holds a bachelor's degree in Watershed Management from Colorado State University. She lives in Durango with her son, Will, and two cats. She enjoys hiking, skiing and visiting exotic places.

- Ann Bond

## RETIREE NEWS

Retirees, please mark your calendars for our third annual Employees and Retirees Potluck this summer:

**Tuesday, June 10, 2008  
11:30 a.m.  
San Juan Public Lands Center  
15 Burnett Court, Durango**

We will mail out invitations with more information this spring.

NOTE: In addition to past San Juan Public Lands employees, all Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management retirees are invited to attend.

If you have questions, please call San Juan Administrative Assistant Liz Haydon at 970 385-1290.

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## COLUMBINE NEWS

## Partnership Program Recognized

**DURANGO** - The Columbine Ranger District/Field Office received the USFS Rocky Mountain Regional Volunteer Leadership Award for 2007. Its Recreation Volunteer Program involved 21 different organizations and hundreds of volunteers. Volunteers came from local, regional and national trails groups; Boy Scout troops; environmental groups; and school groups. Altogether, they donated some 12,000 hours of on-the-ground work for a value of more than \$156,000 this past year.

"Volunteers assisted in all aspects of our recreation program," said Richard Speegle, Columbine Recreation Coordinator. "We simply couldn't do it all without them."

Trail projects made possible by volunteers included reconstructing bridges, maintaining trails, removing noxious weeds, designing and installing interpretive signs. Wilderness projects included campsite restoration, trail maintenance, and visitor contacts.

- Ann Bond



**From left to right: Columbine Trails Foreman Don Kelly accepts the Regional Partnership of the Year Award at the annual Regional Forester Awards Ceremony in Denver, with Acting San Juan NF Deputy Supervisor Bob Sprentall and San Juan NF Supervisor Mark Stiles.**

## Thanks for the Memories - Farewell to the Old Animas Office

**DURANGO** - The old Animas Ranger District Office closed its doors at the end of 2007, after the downtown Durango building, located next to the train tracks on 11<sup>th</sup> Street, was traded from federal jurisdiction in a land exchange.

Years ago, the building served as a USFS garage. Later, it was remodeled to serve as the headquarters for the former

Animas Ranger District. When the Animas and Pine RDs combined to form the Columbine Public Lands Office in 1994, Columbine Recreation and Archaeology staffers moved into the old building. The rest of the Columbine crew stayed at the old Pine RD building in downtown Bayfield.

Since then, the San Juan has searched for a way to house all the Columbine employees in one location. In 2005, following an environmental analysis, the old downtown Animas building and a FS dwelling on Eighth Avenue, which had been used to house seasonal workers, were traded for 38 acres of private property on U.S. Highway 160 between Bayfield and Durango.

The goal is to make this acquired parcel the site for a future Columbine Public Lands Office to house all Columbine employees and serve the Durango and Bayfield communities from one central location.

Although the old Animas RD building was no longer adequate for employee offices, it was hard to leave. An afterhours wake was held in December by Columbine employees in December in conjunction with several retirees, who had also worked out of the building over the years.

The displaced Columbine employees are now working out of the second floor of the PLC, where they will remain indefinitely until a new shared office is constructed. Their phone numbers remain the same.

- Ann Bond



**(From left to right): Animas RD Retirees Gary Mason, Biff Stransky, Ted LaMay, and Wayne Dunn help Columbine Recreation Coordinator Richard Speegle pay homage to the Animas West office in downtown Durango at a wake to mark the building's transfer from federal ownership in December.**

## DOLORES NEWS

## Rowe's New in Range



**DOLORES** - Jennifer Rowe is the new DPLO Rangeland Management Specialist administering FS and BLM grazing allotments. She transferred from Columbine, where she was Rangeland Management Specialist for five years.

Originally from eastern Oregon, Jenn started her federal career as a BLM seasonal firefighter in 1996, then worked on a fire effects crew at Grand Canyon National Park.

Her first permanent job came in 2000 as Rangeland Management Specialist trainee on the Medicine Bow-Routt NF. She holds a bachelor's degree in Rangeland Resources from Oregon State University.

Jenn has been with her boyfriend, Parker, for four years. She has a Vizsla (dog), Lilly, and cat, Chester. She enjoys bicycling, cross-country skiing, hiking, hunting, camping, rock climbing, gourmet cooking, theatre acting, and home-improvement projects.

I'm excited to be working at such a motivated and upbeat office," Jenn says. "I think Dolores will provide me the challenges and opportunities I've been looking for."

## Kill's New in Timber

**DOLORES** - Debbie Kill is the new DPLO Small Sales/Reforestation Forester. She moved here from the Ottawa NF, where she was a District NEPA Coordinator.

Debbie was born in Lone Pine, California, and grew up in a National Park Service family. Her FS career began as a seasonal on the Manti-La Sal NF, followed by contract stand exam work. She worked seasonally in fire prevention until being hired as a District Forester Trainee in NEPA.

Debbie holds a bachelor's degree in Forestry from Northern Arizona University. She and husband, David, who works at the Anasazi Heritage Center, have one daughter, Amanda, a Welch corgi, Dasher, and Goldie, "the goldfish that drove across country."

Debbie enjoys helping her daughter with homework, participating in PTA, reading, making gingerbread houses, hiking, cross-country skiing, and jigsaw puzzles.



## Rice's New in Energy

**DOLORES** - Tom Rice is the new DPLO Natural Resource Specialist working in oil and gas permitting and surface protection. Previously, he was Director of the Ute Mountain Environmental Department for the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe.

Originally from Sparta, Wisconsin, Tom has lived in the Four Corners since 1986, working as boatman/guide for Wild Rivers Expeditions, consultant for Alta Environmental Assessments, Archaeologist for Mesa Verde National Park and private contractors, and Water System Manager for Bluff Water Works.

Tom holds a bachelor's degree in Humanities from Fort Lewis College. He and his wife, Kelly McAndrews, have two children, Blair and Willa, two dogs, two cats, "too many" horses, and one fish.

Tom enjoys skiing, biking, boating, hiking, and horseback riding.

"I'm excited about the opportunity to work with people I have known locally for many years, as well as the prospects of addressing challenges the land we manage faces as energy continues to be developed in our region," he says.



## Rathbone's New in Timber

**DOLORES** - Matt Rathbone is the new DPLO Presale Forester responsible for laying out sales, cruising volumes, completing appraisals, and assembling sample contracts and bid advertisement packages.

Matt transferred from the Rifle RD of the White River NF, where he had worked in the timber program for five years. He started his career as an accountant in New York City, before going to work as a forestry consultant and timber buyer in Mississippi for a decade.

Matt holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Bucknell University and an associate degree in Forestry from State University of New York.

He grew up near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where his parents still live.

Matt is single with Jasper, an Australian cattle dog. He enjoys fishing, golf, hiking, camping, and occasionally, home beer brewing.





## AHC/CANM NEWS



## Kill Livens Up the Heritage Center

**DOLORES** - David Kill is new at the Anasazi Heritage Center, coordinating visitor information services, educational activities, and the museum's volunteer program. David arrived this fall, just in time to miss the subzero onslaught of winter on Michigan's Upper Peninsula, where he spent the last several years managing the Ottawa NF Visitor Center, while living across the state line in Land O' Lakes, Wisconsin. The region is remote and rural, and many residents are descendants of generations of trappers and loggers.

"Once I got used to the cold, I found it to be a special place in its own right," David says. "I gained valuable experience, interpreting the flora and fauna of the region for the public."

David is no newcomer to the Southwest. For 10 years he managed the Flagstaff Visitor Center in Arizona, a partnership between the city's municipal government and Chamber of Commerce. His parents and sisters live in the Phoenix area.

David manages the Heritage Center front desk, helping visitors and providing information about Canyons of the Ancients National Monument and other nearby destinations. He recruits and schedules the volunteers who work in the museum book shop, artifact curation facility, and information services. (Currently the museum has about 60 volunteers signed up.)

David also plans and coordinates educational programs for schools— nearly 3,000 students in 100 groups visited this past year— as well as for long-distance teachers and other fans who want help in teaching archaeology and cultural-resource preservation. His wife, Debbie, manages the Small Sales and Reforestation programs for the San Juan NF at the Dolores Public Land Office. David, Debbie, and their daughter, Amanda, 10, live in Cortez.

- Michael Williams

## Special Art Show Featured in Gallery This Winter

**DOLORES** - "Seasons on the Plateau," representing a lifetime of work by Four Corners artist Stanton Englehart, is featured in the Special Exhibit Gallery at the Anasazi Heritage Center this winter until March, 2008.

Stanton Englehart grew up in Lewis, Colorado, about 10 miles northwest of Dolores. After earning his Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Colorado, he returned to the Four Corners to live and paint.

Englehart founded the art department at Fort Lewis College in Durango, and retired in 1991 after 30 years on the faculty.

His signature subject and style are huge, vivid landscapes of space and form rendered in oils. These are well represented in the show and prized by collectors throughout the world. The title piece is a four-panel work almost 25 feet wide. It is accompanied by 12 individual canvasses named for the months of the year, as well as others in similar style.

Many paintings in the exhibit have never been shown in public before, including "The Women," a series of 20 smaller works in mixed media. Another mixed-media series features barnyards and farm animals.

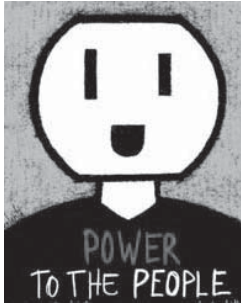
The museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with no admission fee charged until March 1.

- Michael Williams



**Artist Stanton Englehart (center) speaks with museum visitors during the opening of the exhibit "Seasons on the Plateau" at the AHC in December. At left is his daughter, Sharon Englehart, who teaches art at Montezuma County High School and who helped to organize the show. Refreshments were provided by the Canyonlands Natural History Association and the Anasazi Historical Society— and by museum staff.**

## GREEN TEAM TIPS



### Waste Not, Watt Not

**Did you know that ...**  
when you leave elec-  
tronic devices plugged in

on standby or sleep mode, they continue to use about 40 percent of their full running power? This applies to computers, TVs, video and DVD players, cable boxes, chargers for phones, laptops, cameras, batteries, handheld devices, etc.)

To avoid the drain of these “energy vampires,” plug them into a power strip and turn the strip off when the electronic appliances are not in use.

It's easy to stop this wasteful drain of electricity! At the office, after you shut down your computer, reach down and turn it off at the power strip. At home, plug your electronics into power strips and do the same.

- Laurie Yeager, Green Team Leader

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TIP: Have the catalog(s) you want to cancel with you when you go online so you can see exactly how your name is handled on the mailing label(s) and whether or not they have a customer number assigned to you.

- Laurie Yeager



### File It Under “Recycled”

Try out the new 1", 2", and 3" recyclable cardboard binders. Not only are they made of 100% recycled paper, they are easy to recycle. When you're finished, you can unscrew the metal ring from the middle, recycle the cover, and put in a replacement cover. The binders are about the same price as the plastic version. Also consider recycled cardboard CD holders (no more plastic).

If you would like more information or would like to see other products available through the Sustainable Group, visit them at:

<http://www.sustainablegroup.net/mission.html>

- Beth Jones

San Juan Public Lands Center  
15 Burnett Court  
Durango, CO 81301

TO: